

**Fox, Susan**

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**From:** Gary Carlson [garykcarlson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010 1:33 PM  
**To:** Fox, Susan  
**Subject:** Letter of Interest/Political Practices Post  
**Attachments:** Political Practices Letter of Interest.doc

Candidate Selection Committee:

Attached is my "Letter of Interest" for the position of Political Practices Post. My phone number is 406-961-5113. My physical address is 1283 Rhonda Lane, Victor, MT 59875 and my mailing address is PO Box 937, Corvallis, MT 59828. I also have a fax number which is 406-961-5130.

Respectfully,

Gary K. Carlson

APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL PRACTICES POST, LETTER OF INTEREST

TO: CANDIDATE SELECTION COMMITTEE                      NOVEMBER 16, 2010  
POSITION: INVESTIGATES AND HELPS PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS OF  
ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

I am pleased to email my Letter of Interest for the above position. Right up front selection committee members should know that I am a registered Republican. In addition, I was the newly selected Executive Director of the Montana State Republican party who served only three weeks this past January. In my opinion, the Party really needed an office manager so I decided that it was best for me not to continue.

My qualifications for the Political Practices Post are:

1. Presidential Political Appointee for President Reagan. I was the Executive Director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR). NCESGR was a Department of Defense Agency and I ran the entire program. This included speaking on behalf of President Reagan on Guard and Reserve issues throughout America and elsewhere. I was the chief architect of the current law concerning employer issues for members of the Guard and Reserve. Montana has a state committee of the ESGR program.
2. As a Marine Corps LTCOL, I was a Legislative/Legal officer at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, DC. In total I had approximately 21 different attorneys working for me. One of them is currently a federal judge in Arkansas (Judge Harry Barnes, a Democrat). I retired as a Marine Corps officer after 29 years. My time included being a young LT in Vietnam.
3. From 1997 through 2008 I was an Adjunct Faculty member at San Bernardino Valley College. I taught the US Constitution and US government. In the ratings of the adjunct faculty I was rated number 1. It was an honor and privilege to teach the Constitution. I currently speak at community organizations on the subject of the US Constitution and US government.
4. In 1980 I was elected as the Ravalli County Superintendent of Schools, Ravalli County, MT. I was in that position for over a year and then I was called back on active duty to Washington, DC with the Marine Corps.
5. In 1984 I ran and won the Republican Primary for the US House of Representatives in MT District #1. Pat Williams was the incumbent, and he was re-elected. I have not talked with Pat about my application for this position but committee members are certainly welcome to ask Pat about me.
6. After leaving the Reagan Administration I returned to Minnesota where my folks lived. In 1996 I ran for the US Senate in MN and finished third out of 8 candidates in the Republican Caucus. My theme for the campaign was "Character does Count."

Respectfully, Gary K. Carlson  
1283 Rhonda Lane, Victor, MT 59875, 406-961-5113

## Fox, Susan

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**From:** Gary Carlson [garykcarlson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 29, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Fox, Susan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Gary Carlson <garykcarlson@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Nov 29, 2010 at 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)  
**To:** "Fox, Susan" <sfox@mt.gov>

On Sat, Nov 20, 2010 at 11:56 AM, Fox, Susan <sfox@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your letter of interest for the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. The selection committee would like you to respond to the following questions by December 3. If you have not sent in a resume, please send one also. The selection committee will meet sometime the week of December 6. I will get that information to you as soon as I can. Thanks for your interest, Susan

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP? No, I am not although I am 100% comfortable with my qualifications and ethics.
2. What is your legal writing experience? During my time at Headquarters Marine Corps I was a Branch Head in responding to Congressional inquiries and monitoring and responding to pieces of legislation. I was responsible for turning around response time on numerous issues. I also handled several high profile legal cases for the Marine Corps. Later when I was a civilian political appointee I was the chief architect of the current law on veterans rights with employers. The act was signed into law by President Clinton.
3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP? No, I have not.
4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative? I ran for the House of Representatives, District #1 in Montana against Pat Williams in 1984. In 1996 I was one of 8 Republicans running for the US Senate in Minnesota. I have been active in Republican activities in four states: Montana, Minnesota, California and Virginia.
5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives? Yes, Number four would answer this. However, I have also been a professor teaching the US Constitution and US Government and I did this without emphasizing any particular party. Instead, I taught the Constitution. I am also a retired Marine Corps LTCOL. That should explain my character. I not only could, but I would render all decisions according to law and I would be impartial 100%.

6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits? Of course, I would go by what the law is. Do I have personal opinions? Sure, I do, but that would not be my role. Philosophically, I am afraid we are at a point where money seems to be a real obstacle for good candidates of any party to even consider running for office. That is unfortunate for all of us. Would I recommend improvements to the present system if I could so as Director? Yes, I would not be afraid to make recommendations as time goes on if it would improve the situation. I believe my recommendations would be helpful.

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist? Yes, in addition to my political background, my wife, Joan has worked in several capacities. she worked in Washington, DC for the American Defense Foundation/Institute. She even coordinated one summit meeting in DC between members of our government and Taiwan. She also worked for former Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida. On the POW-MIA issue she was an advisor to former Senator DeConcini of Arizona when he met with White House staff. The question was the status of Americans remaining behind on the POW-MIA issue. Both of us were also active as family members on POW-MIA issues for many years.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities? That is an interesting question. The answer is probably no, although, I, personally, would review from a legislative perspective the entire financial campaign regulations.

**Susan Byorth Fox**  
Executive Director  
Montana Legislative Services  
(406) 444-3066  
[sfox@mt.gov](mailto:sfox@mt.gov)